WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD™

COLLEGE DICTIONARY
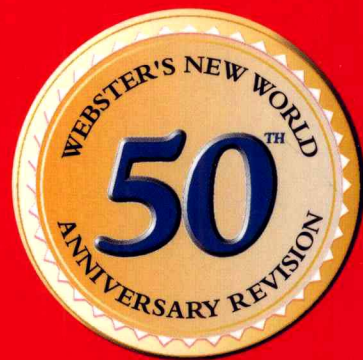
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50TH
ANNIVERSARY REVISION

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of the Associated Press**

DEFINING AMERICAN ENGLISH
FOR FIFTY YEARS

WEBSTER'S
NEW WORLD™
COLLEGE
DICTIONARY

Fourth Edition

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD

Presented to _____

By _____

Date _____

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FOREWORD

In 1941, the World Publishing Company, founded in the early 1900s in Cleveland, Ohio, hired a staff of scholars to create a new dictionary. Determined to break with the conservatism that existed in contemporary reference editing, this team of lexicographers set out to produce a mid-20th-century dictionary that would accurately reflect the era and its language. Led by chief editors David B. Guralnik and Joseph H. Friend, their goal was to create a completely new kind of dictionary built on a foundation of contemporary linguistics, psychology, and allied sciences.

In contrast to other leading dictionaries of that time, which were stiffly formal and authoritarian, this new work was to be a more friendly, open guide that showed how language is actually used. The editors sought to record the relaxed pronunciations used in ordinary conversation rather than those of the synthetic "platform speech" traditionally recorded in other dictionaries. They also established an easily understood phonemic system for transcribing pronunciations, and, eventually, expanded etymologies to include Indo-European bases and the cognate relationships of words within the language. The most important innovation, however, was in the style of the definitions, which used 20th-century language in a manner that conveyed meaning with sureness, clarity, and ease.

Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language was ultimately published in September 1951 in a two-volume encyclopedic edition. A single-volume college edition followed in 1953. Reviews of the work were enthusiastic in their praise. The December 1951 issue of *Library Journal* hailed the work as a "dictionary that marks a great advance in American lexicography."

In 1970, a completely revised Second College Edition was published. It was the first dictionary to identify all Americanisms—those terms and usages that first appeared in the United States. It was also the first to give etymologies of American place names.

The value of the dictionary's editorial innovations did not go unnoticed. In 1975, the *New York Times* announced it was replacing the dictionary it had used for decades with the Second College Edition of *Webster's New World Dictionary* as its first reference and as the basis for its forthcoming *Manual of Style and Usage*. The next year, both the Associated Press and United Press International adopted the dictionary and based their style manuals on it as well. They cited the frequency and thoroughness of updates, the reliability of the information, and the clarity of the definitions as reasons for choosing the work. Subsequently, most leading U.S. newspapers selected the *Webster's New World Dictionary* as their dictionary of first choice. In 1970, the dictionary was chosen by the American Printing House for the Blind, in conjunction with the Library of Congress, as the first dictionary of its scope to be embossed in Braille in its entirety; the resulting work comprised 72 large volumes.

The Third College Edition was launched in 1988. By 1991, 40 years after the original dictionary was published, more than 85 million Webster's New World Dictionaries, in various editions, had been printed.

The present work, the Fourth College Edition, was published in July 1999. It is the result of more than four years of concentrated editorial effort and of half as much time again spent in long-range planning. It retains the many acclaimed virtues of the Webster's New World tradition while bolstering the coverage of the rapidly growing lexicon of contemporary English and introducing important and innovative lexicographic features.

As society changes, adapting to technological innovation and cultural shifts, language changes along with it. New words are coined, existing words take on new meanings, pronunciations change, words shift in tone—all part of the continuing process by which a language maintains its vigor and usefulness. The editorial staff of Webster's New World conducts a wide-reaching program of language monitoring to document such change. Linguistic evidence is collected on a daily basis in the form of citations of words and expressions used in print and speech; the program collects several thousand new citations every month. It is these citations which have

served as the foundation for this latest full-scale, authoritative revision of the dictionary.

The results of these efforts to keep the dictionary current can be seen in the thousands of new words and meanings added in this edition. Ranging from the technical terminology ushered in by the computer revolution to the jargon of professional sports and from the specialized terms that have accompanied America's newfound preoccupation with cooking and dining to slang terms that appear to have achieved permanence, these new entries help document the continuing evolution of American English and reflect the subtle interplay between language and culture. Changes in spelling and pronunciation are also covered, for these are no less fluid than the lexicon itself.

Although coverage of new terms is the most obvious aspect of any new edition of a dictionary, other changes within have resulted from a thorough editorial review of the preceding edition. First, the syllabification of words has been revised. Conservative word divisions are given, divisions that make it possible for a reader to make the passage across line breaks more easily and with greater confidence. It is hoped that this approach may serve as an antidote to the illogical breaks encountered with increasing frequency as word processors are allowed to determine where breaks will occur.

The Guide to the Dictionary has been extensively rewritten, not simply to reflect changes in the way information is presented in the dictionary, but also to make the explanations presented in the Guide itself easier to access and to understand.

In earlier editions some reference material in the form of lists and tables was incorporated at various places in the body of the dictionary. In this new edition, such material has been increased and conveniently placed in a Reference Supplement located at the back of the book.

Users of the dictionary are encouraged to read the guest essay by the noted lexicographer Sidney Landau. It entertainingly outlines the history and nature of dictionaries and astutely points up several aspects of dictionary editing that may not be obvious to those outside this specialized field.

A reference book that is valued for its breadth of coverage, clarity of style, and reliability gains in usability when it is physically attractive as well. A new page design by Otto Barz of Publishing Synthesis, Ltd., New York, has been implemented to improve readability, which is also helped by the use of type fonts specially commissioned for the work. The total page count has been increased. Photographic portraits of famous figures from the last 150 years have been entered at selected entries, and a center atlas section of four-color maps has been added in the main A–Z section.

For all its many changes, however, this new edition preserves those characteristics for which Webster's New World dictionaries are justly famous: the clarity of definition; the open, uncramped style; the easily grasped pronunciations; the single alphabetical listing of all entries, including biographical and geographical entries, foreign terms, and abbreviations; and an overall user-friendliness.

As are all Webster's New World dictionaries, the College Dictionary is stored in a relational database operated on a mainframe computer. This is the same database designed more than 10 years ago to house the Third Edition. Since then its fundamental structure has undergone only minor modifications, the original architecture having proved robust and flexible. Designed and monitored by Thury O'Connor of Lexi-Comp, Inc., it has the ability to output data with modern markup tagging and accommodates contemporary typesetting and printing systems.

Computerization of the dictionary entries has allowed the editors to ensure internal consistency: every word in every definition was checked to make sure it is itself entered in the dictionary (and thus available for the user to consult). Similarly, the hyphenation used at line breaks was checked to ensure that it reflects the hyphenation shown at the dictionary entries themselves.

Editorial and administrative staff are listed on p. vi. Modern dictionaries represent complex collaborative efforts among editors over long periods of time. The staff page credits those responsible for the preparation of the Fourth Edition and lists past and present consultants whose contributions have helped shape the Fourth Edition. Also listed are technical personnel who have contributed substantially to the production of the dictionary.

All Webster's New World dictionaries strive to embody the innovative principles and high standards first set forth nearly fifty years ago by David B. Guralnik, now Editor in Chief Emeritus. Mr. Guralnik's work represents a landmark contribution to American lexicography. In this 50th Anniversary revision of the dictionary, the current editors take special pride in being able to have his name on the work's title page. We offer this edition in the hope that it will serve the modern reader as well as previous editions have—as an indispensable reference work covering the English language today. We regard it as a scholarly account of the past and as an inviting gateway to the new millennium.

Michael Agnes
Editor in Chief

Andrew Sparks
Senior Editor, supervising

GUIDE TO THE DICTIONARY

This dictionary presents information about words in the form of a paragraph for each word. The Guide to the Dictionary that follows explains the elements of such a paragraph. The sample paragraphs below have the most important of these elements identified by labels that contain references to parts of the Guide. In the remainder of the Guide, the user can also find explanations of other important elements.

Main Entry · · · · · · Etymology

mend (mend) *vt.* ⟦ME *menden,* aphetic < *amenden,* AMEND⟧ **1** to repair (something broken, torn, or worn); restore to good condition; make whole; fix **2** to make better; improve; reform; set right [to *mend* one's manners] **3** to atone for; make amends for: now only in **least said, soonest mended** —*vi.* **1** to get better; improve, esp. in health **2** to grow together again or heal, as a fracture —*n.* **1** the act of mending; improvement **2** a mended place, as on a garment **on the mend** · · · Idiom improving, esp. in health —**mend'·able** *adj.* —**mend'er** *n.*

Pronunciation · Part-of-Speech Label

small (smôl) *adj.* ⟦ME *smal,* narrow, slender < OE *smæl,* akin to Ger *schmal,* narrow < IE base *(s)melo-,* smaller animal: see MAL-⟧ **1** little in size, esp. when compared with others of the same kind; not large or big; limited in size **2** *a)* little in quantity, extent, numbers, value, duration, etc. [a *small* income] *b)* of slight intensity; of limited degree or scope *c)* consisting of relatively few units; numerically low **3** of little importance or significance; trivial **4** having relatively little investment, capital, etc. [a *small* business] **5** LOWERCASE —*adv.* **1** in · · · Cross-reference small pieces **2** in a low, faint tone; softly **3** in a small manner —*n.* **1** the small or narrow part [the *small* of the back] **2** [*pl.*] small things or articles collectively **3** [*pl.*] [Brit. Informal] UNDERCLOTHES —**feel** · · · Run-in Derived Form small to feel shame or humiliation —**small'ness** *n.*

Usage Label

Synonymy · · · **SYN.** —**small** and **little** are often used interchangeably, but **small** is preferred with reference to something concrete of less than the usual quantity, size, amount, value, importance, etc. [a *small* man, tax, audience, matter, etc.] and **little** more often applies to absolute concepts [he has his *little* faults], in expressing tenderness, indulgence, etc. [the *little* dickens], and in connoting insignificance, meanness, pettiness, etc. [of *little* importance] —**ANT.** **large, big,** · · · Antonyms **great**

Americanism —◾**steel·head** (stēl'hed') *n.,* ⎸*pl.* **··head'** or **··heads'**⎹ a rainbow trout · · · Inflections that has returned from the sea

Contents

I. GUIDE WORDS

A. How does the user find a word in this dictionary?

Two GUIDE WORDS appear at the top of each page showing the alphabetical range of the entries on that page.

B. The first main entry word and the last main entry word on a page serve as the GUIDE WORDS for that page.

alto / amalgamation   **42**

C. A run–in derived form attached to either the first main entry word or the last main entry word may become the guide word if:

it falls alphabetically before the first or after the last.
it is also not within the range of the guide words on the preceding or following page.

cerebrate / ceruminous   **240**

II. THE MAIN ENTRY WORD

A. How are the entries in the dictionary arranged?

The dictionary lists all MAIN ENTRIES in strict alphabetical order and sets them in large boldface type, extending slightly into the left margin. MAIN ENTRIES include single words, hyphenated and unhyphenated compounds, proper names, prefixes, suffixes, and abbreviations.

black (blak) *adj.* ...
Black (blak), **Hugo** (La Fayette) ...
☆**black alder** ...
black-and-blue (-ən blōō′) ...
black·ber·ry (blak′ber′ē, -bər ē) *n.* ...
bldg *abbrev.* ...
-ble (bəl) ...

Some entries are alphabetized in special ways.

The dictionary lists BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRIES (people) and GEOGRAPHICAL ENTRIES (places) in alphabetical order in the A-Z main section. There are some special rules that apply to them, however.

For BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRIES, the dictionary uses only the last name in arranging the names in alphabetical order.

Stoke-on-Trent
stoker (...) *n.* ...
Stokes (...), Sir **George Gabriel** ...
☆**stokesia** (...) *n.* ...
Sto·kow·ski (...), **Leopold** (**Boleslawowicz Stanislaw Antoni**) ...

If there are two or more persons with the same family name, this dictionary lists them in a single entry block in alphabetical order by first names.

Wil·liams (...) **1 Hank** (born *Hiram Williams*)1923-53; U.S. country music singer & composer **2 Ralph Vaughan** *see* VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, Ralph **3 Roger** 1603?-83; Eng. clergyman & colonist in America: founder of R.I. **4 Tennessee** (born *Thomas Lanier Williams*) 1914-83; U.S. playwright **5 William Car·los** (...) 1883-1963; U.S. poet & writer

John·son (...) **1 Andrew** 1808-75; 17th president of the U.S. (1865-69) **2 James Wel·don** (...) 1871-1938; U.S. writer & diplomat **3 Lyn·don Baines** (...) 1908-73; 36th president of the U.S. (1963-69) **4 Philip Cortel·you** (...) 1906- ; U.S. architect **5 Samuel** 1709-84; Eng. lexicographer, writer, & critic: known as *Dr. Johnson*

The dictionary does not include names in parentheses in alphabetizing.

Joliot-Curie (...) **1 (Jean) Fré·dé·ric** (...) (born *Jean Frédéric Joliot*) 1900-58; Fr. nuclear physicist **2 Irène** (...) (born *Irène Curie*) 1897-1956; Fr. nuclear physicist: wife of Frédéric & daughter of Pierre & Marie Curie

Biographical and geographical names that look the same are in separate entry blocks.

Cleve·land[1] (...), **(Stephen) Gro·ver** (...) 1837-1908; 22d and 24th president of the U.S. (1885-89; 1893-97)
Cleve·land[2] (...) **1** ⟦after Moses *Cleaveland* (1754-1806), surveyor of the Western Reserve⟧ city and port in NE Ohio, on Lake Erie: pop. 506,000 (met. area, 1,831,000) **2** county in N England, on the North Sea: 231 sq mi (597 sq km); pop. 550,000

Given names, family names, names in mythology, names of biblical persons and places, and geographical names are entered separately from biographical entries.

Aaron[1] (...) *n.* ⟦[...]⟧ **1** a masculine name **2** *Bible* the older brother of Moses and first high priest of the Hebrews: Ex. 4, 40:13-16
Aa·ron[2] (...), **Hank** (born *Henry Louis Aaron*) 1934- ; U.S. baseball player
Bo·na·parte[1] (...) *n.* name of a Corsican family of Italian origin to which belonged Napoleon I and his four brothers

Bo·na·parte[2] (…) **1 Je·rome** … **2 Joseph** … **3 Louis** 1778-1846; king of Holland (1806-10): father of Louis Napoleon **4 Lu·cien** … **5 Na·po·leon** (…) 1769-1821; Fr. military leader & emperor of France (1804-15), born in Corsica: in full *Napoleon I* See also NAPOLEON II, LOUIS NAPOLEON

Roth·schild[1] (…) *n.* name of a family of European bankers
Roth·schild[2] (…) **1 Meyer An·selm** (…) 1743-1812; Ger. founder of the banking house of Rothschild: also **Meyer Am·schel** (…) **2 Nathan Meyer** 1777-1836; Eng. banker, born in Germany: son of Meyer Anselm

The dictionary lists names beginning with *Mac* and *Mc* in strict alphabetical order.

Mac·Dow·ell (…), **Edward** …
mace·bearer (…) *n.* …
Mac·leod (…), **John James Rick·ard** …
make·fast (…) *n.* …
☆**ma·ser** (…) *n.* …
McCul·lers (…), **Carson** …

The dictionary follows strict alphabetical order for *Saint* and *St.* when they appear as part of *proper names* other than the names of canonized persons.

Saint Ber·nard (…) any of a breed of very large, … dog …
Sainte-Beuve (…), **Charles Au·gus·tin** (…) 1804-69; Fr. literary critic …
Saint-Exupery (…), **An·toine de** (…) 1900-44; Fr. aviator & writer
squint (…) *vi.* [[…]] **1** to look or peer with the eyes partly closed, …
St. Clair Shores city in SE Mich., on Lake St. Clair: suburb of Detroit: …
St-Cloud (…) city in NC France: suburb of Paris: …
steel (…) *n.* [[…]] **1** a hard, tough metal …
St. Hel·ens (…), **Mount** [[…]] volcanic mountain …

The listing of canonized persons is in alphabetical order by their *given names*, which appear in boldface. The designation *Saint* follows in lightface type, either directly after a comma or at the beginning of a numbered sense within a proper-name block.

Au·gus·tine[2] (…) **1** Saint … early Christian church father, …
St. Au·gus·tine (…) [[…]] seaport in NE Fla.; …

B. *What are some SPECIAL kinds of MAIN ENTRIES?*

The BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRY:
This dictionary lists BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRIES under the name by which the people are best known. Nicknames or birth names may be given elsewhere in the entry block.

Elling·ton (…), **Duke** (born *Edward Kennedy Ellington*) …
Par·ker (…) **1 Char·lie** (…) (born *Charles Christopher Parker, Jr.*) …
Holi·day (…) **Billie** (born *Eleonora Fagan Holiday*) …: also called *Lady Day*
Te·resa[2] (…) **1** Mother (born *Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu*) …
Du·mas (…) **1 Alexandre** …: called *Dumas pere* **2 Alexandre** …: called *Dumas fils*: son of *Dumas pere*

The entry may also include titles.

Giel·gud (…), Sir (**Arthur**) **John** …
Spark (…), Dame **Muriel** (**Sarah**) (born *Muriel Sarah Camberg*) …

The entry typically includes birth and death dates, terms of office, dates of reign, etc. When a date is uncertain a question mark is used.

Si·na·tra (…), **Frank** …1915-98
John Paul … **1 John Paul I** … 1912-78; pope (1978) **2 John Paul II** … 1920- ; pope (1978-)
Anderson[1](…) … **3 Marian** 1897?-1993; …

The GEOGRAPHICAL ENTRY:
Many geographical entries contain population figures taken from official census reports or from estimates. This dictionary rounds off figures to the nearest 100 or 1,000.

Tun·bridge Wells (…) city & spa in Kent, SE England: county district pop. 100,000
Nome (…) … city in W Alas., on the S coast of Seward Peninsula: pop. 3,500
Pago Pago (…) seaport on the S coast of Tutuila Island: capital of American Samoa: pop. 3,500

Du·rango (…) **1** state of NW Mexico: …; pop. 1,349,000 **2** its capital: pop. 414,000: …

Generally, U.S. cities with census populations of 50,000 and over are entered. Cities or towns with fewer people but of some historical note are also entered.

Get·tys·burg (…) … town in S Pa.: site of a crucial battle (July, 1863) of the Civil War and of a famous address by Abraham Lincoln dedicating a National Cemetery: pop. 7,000

World cities with a large population or of historical note are entered.

Ka·ra·chi (…) capital of Sind province, Pakistan, on the Arabian Sea: former (1947-59) capital of Pakistan: pop. 5,076,000
An·zio (…) port on the W coast of Italy, south of Rome: pop. 31,000: site of Allied beachhead (Jan., 1944) in the invasion of Italy in WWII

Many other geographical units are entered, such as regions, territories, U.S. states, and Canadian provinces.

Dasht-e-Lut (…) vast desert region of central and SE Iran, extending southward from the Dasht-e-Kavir
Donets Basin major industrial and coal-producing region in the lower valley of the Donets River
British Indian Ocean Territory British territory in the Indian Ocean, between Sri Lanka & Mauritius, consisting of the Chagos Archipelago: 23 sq mi (60 sq km)
Mary·land (…) … state of the E U.S., on the Atlantic: one of the 13 original states; 9,775 sq mi (25,317 sq km); pop. 4,781,000; cap. Annapolis: abbrev. *MD* or *Md*

A REFERENCE SUPPLEMENT in the back of this dictionary contains many useful charts regarding nations of the world, U.S. states, Canadian provinces, etc.

The TRADEMARK AND SERVICE MARK: The dictionary lists trademarks and service marks in alphabetical order in the A-Z main section.

astro·sphere (…) *n.* …
Astro·Turf (…) *trademark for* …
as·tute (…) *adj.* …

Within an entry the trademark or service mark is given first, and a generic noun or verb sense related to it may follow.

☆**Klaxon** (…) … *trademark for* a kind of electric horn with a loud, shrill sound **—n.** [k-] such a horn
☆**Deep·freeze** (…) … *trademark for* a deep freezer **—n.** [d-] **1** a deep freezer …
Welcome Wagon *service mark for* a welcoming service that provides information about a community to new residents — [*occas.* **w- w-**] **1** any such service …

The dictionary also lists some ABBREVIATIONS as trademarks or service marks.

NASCAR (…) *trademark* National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing
PX *service mark* Post Exchange

The ABBREVIATION: In this dictionary most abbreviation main entries appear without periods. The developing practice of most publications and institutions has been to eliminate periods in many contexts. This dictionary follows that practice. However, since writers and publishers continue to use periods for certain entries, the user should not feel prohibited from doing so as well.

There are exceptions, as in the abbreviations of some Latin phrases and academic degrees.

ad loc. *abbrev.* [[L *ad locum*]] at or to the place
HH.D. or **HHD** *abbrev.* Doctor of Humanities

The dictionary user can assume that some abbreviations will continue to have periods, others will have periods for certain meanings, and many will never have periods in general use.

C. *ALTERNATIVE SPELLINGS & VARIANT FORMS*

This dictionary lists ALTERNATIVE SPELLINGS in various ways, usually depending on how often they appear in use:

1) as joint main entries: this implies that both spellings occur equally, or almost equally, often and that neither one is "more correct" or to be preferred.

ax[1] **or axe**
thea·ter or thea·tre

2) at the end of an entry block, part of speech, or individual meaning, in small boldface: this treatment is used when the alternative spelling occurs less often than the main entry spelling or when it has a particular quality that needs mentioning, such as being British, dialectal, poetic, or rare.

la·sa·gna … Also sp. **la·sa′·gne**
pro·logue … Also sp. **pro′·log′**
mis·de·meanor … Brit. sp. **mis′·de·mean′·our**

This dictionary also lists VARIANT FORMS at the end of the entry block, part of speech, or individual meaning. This implies that the variant occurs less often than the main entry or has a special quality, as in being British, dialectal, poetic, or rare.

con·cur·rence … Also **con·cur′·rency**
COBOL …: also written **Cobol**
luncheon meat …: also [Informal] **lunch·meat**
ty·phoid …: in full **typhoid fever**

This dictionary lists alternative spellings and variant forms that belong to particular parts of speech at the end of the final meaning of that particular part of speech. Similarly, it lists forms belonging to a particular meaning at the end of that meaning.

bo·tani·cal *adj.* … 1 … 2 … 3 … Also **bo·tan′ic** —*n.* …
☆**Pull·man** … 1 …: also **Pullman car** 2 …: also **pullman case**

The dictionary lists as separate main entries alternative spellings and variant forms that are alphabetically distant from the spelling that is more commonly used.

Such entries have a definition [in small capital letters] that is simply a cross-reference to the main spelling or form.

centre *n., vt., vi. chiefly Brit. sp.* of CENTER

In some cases, the alternative spellings may involve diacritics, hyphens, or the like.

chaîné (…) *n.* …: also written **chainé**

D. CROSS-REFERENCES

Some entries consist simply of a cross-reference to another entry having the same meaning, with the cross-reference shown in small capitals.

curb roof 1 MANSARD (ROOF) 2 GAMBREL ROOF

Sometimes a definition includes a term in small capitals. This shows that additional information that may be useful in understanding the definition is at the main entry for the term.

beamy (…) *adj.* … 3 *Naut.* having a BROAD BEAM (*n.* I, 8)

A *see* followed by small capitals tells the user that a particular word is defined or explained within the definition of another word.

Iago (…) *n. see* OTHELLO

E. What are HOMOGRAPHS?

HOMOGRAPHS are main entries that have the same spelling but are different in meaning and origin, as **bat** (a club), **bat** (the animal), and **bat** (to wink).

This dictionary enters homographs in separate blocks and marks them with superscript numbers immediately following the boldface spellings.

bat[1] (…) *n.* …
bat[2] (…) *n.* …
bat[3] (…) *vt.* …

When a part of an etymology, definition, etc. refers to a homograph, the cross-reference includes the superscript of that homograph.

floc (…) *n.* … 2 FLOCK[2] (senses 1, 2, & 3)

In this dictionary main entries having the same spelling that are ordinary parts of speech, proper nouns (including biographical or geographical entries), and abbreviations, are HOMOGRAPHS and thus <u>do</u> have superscripts.

Main entries that differ from others with the same spelling merely by having markings such as accents or hyphens or by being italicized or capitalized are <u>not</u> homographs and thus <u>do not</u> have superscripts.

doré … *adj.* …
Do·ré …, (Paul) Gus·tave …

F. What are AMERICANISMS?

Words and phrases that had their first use in the United States or that were coined by Americans are AMERICANISMS. Meanings of previously existing words or phrases that had their first use in this country are also Americanisms.

This dictionary indicates Americanisms with an open star (☆).

If the star comes before the entry word, the word itself came into the language as an Americanism.

☆**chow·der** … *n.* …

If the star comes before a particular part of speech, that part of speech came into the language as an Americanism.

daily … *adj.* … ☆*n.* …

If the star comes before a single definition or subsense of a definition, only that definition or subsense is an Americanism.

hum·mer … *n.* 1 … ☆2 … ☆3 …

G. How does this dictionary handle FOREIGN TERMS?

The English language contains many words and phrases borrowed from other languages. Some of these words and phrases have become a standard part of the English language, while others keep their foreignness for many readers and speakers of English.

Words that are now part of the English language appear as entry words in boldface roman type.

☆**mesa** … *n.* ⟦Sp < L *mensa,* a table: see MENSAL[1]⟧ a small, high plateau or flat tableland with steep sides, esp. in the SW U.S.

Words that are still thought of as being foreign to some degree appear as entry words in boldface italic type. This is a signal to the reader to print these words and phrases in italics or to underline them in handwriting.

bon·jour … *interj., n.* ⟦Fr⟧ good day; good morning

Most entry words in italics give the actual foreign spelling, if the original language uses the Roman alphabet. In some cases, however, the entry word in italics represents the most common spelling in use in English. In many such cases, the original spelling is often in the etymology.

bombé (…) *adj.* ⟦Fr < *bombe,* bomb (because of the shape)⟧ …
mo·shav (…) *n., pl.* ***mo·sha·vim*** (…) ⟦ModHeb *moshabh* < Heb, a dwelling⟧ …

The entry words for commonly used abbreviations of non-English terms are not in boldface italic type. Their etymologies show the language of origin and the full, unabbreviated form of the term.

i.e. *abbrev.* ⟦L *id est*⟧ that is (to say)

H. Why does this dictionary list PREFIXES, SUFFIXES, & COMBINING FORMS?

The very full coverage of affixes (PREFIXES, SUFFIXES, AND COMBINING FORMS) makes it possible for a dictionary user to understand and pronounce many words that are not entered in the dictionary. The dictionary user can form these words by combining affixes with words that are already entered.

This dictionary lists prefixes and the combining forms used at the beginning of words as entry words with a hyphen at the end.

cardio- (…) … *combining form* of the heart …

This dictionary lists suffixes and the combining forms used at the end of words with a hyphen at the beginning.

-ness (…) … *suffix* state, quality, or instance of being …

This dictionary lists infixes (forms which appear in the middle of words) as entry words with a hyphen at the beginning and at the end.

-i- (…) *infix* forming compound words: a connective vowel orig. used for combining Latin elements only, but now used freely

I. *How are words divided?*

Dividing words at the end of a line is more complicated than it used to be. Today computer programs sometimes divide words in ways that would not have been acceptable at one time. However, there are some general rules still in effect for most writing.

Never divide words having four letters or fewer; thus, avoid:

a-go
on-ly
tri-o

Do not divide a word after the first syllable if that syllable has only a single letter; thus, avoid:

a-bout
e-lect
i-tinerary

Do not divide a word so as to carry only one or two letters over to the following line; thus, avoid:

hap-py
mosqui-to
savor-y

In this edition of the dictionary, a center dot (·) shows the pre-ferred way to divide all boldface entry words, including main entries, inflected forms (truncated and not truncated), and run-in derived forms.

The center dot appears between syllables; thus:

an·noy
cer·emo·nial
hypo·thala·mus

The placement of the center dot reflects the rules listed above and also some traditional printing practices designed to assist readability and understanding as the eye moves from the end of one line to the beginning of the next line.

III. How does the reader use the PRONUNCIATIONS in this dictionary?

The pronunciations are explained in the section GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION which follows this general guide.

IV. What are the PART-OF-SPEECH LABELS in this dictionary and how are they used?

A. *Which words get PART-OF-SPEECH LABELS?*

This dictionary does give part-of-speech labels for most main entry words that are solid or hyphenated forms.

This dictionary does not give part-of-speech labels for prefixes, suffixes, combining forms, abbreviations, trademarks and service marks, and biographical and geographical entries.

B. *What are the PART-OF-SPEECH LABELS?*

This dictionary uses the following labels for the parts of speech traditionally used to classify words in English grammar. They appear in boldface italic type following the pronunciations.

n.	noun
v.	verb
vt.	transitive verb
vi.	intransitive verb
adj.	adjective
adv.	adverb
prep.	preposition
conj.	conjunction
pron.	pronoun
interj.	interjection

This dictionary also uses the following labels:

pl.n.	plural noun
sing.n.	singular noun
v.aux.	auxiliary verb
v.impersonal	impersonal verb
definite article	
indefinite article	
possessive pronominal adj.	

When an entry word has more than one part of speech, long dashes introduce each different part of speech in the entry block.

square (…) *n.* 〚…〛 —*vt.* … —*vi.* … —*adj.* … —*adv.* …

Sometimes an entry will have two or more parts of speech, separated by commas, and a definition or cross-reference understood to apply to all of them.

draught (…) *n., vt., adj. now chiefly Brit. sp. of* DRAFT
☆**max**[1] (…) [Slang] *n., adj.* MAXIMUM —*vi.* …
whole-hog (…) *adj., adv.* ☆[Slang] without reservation; complete(ly)

In some long and complicated entries roman numerals (**I, II,** etc.) are used to separate groupings of related definitions into smaller sections.

go[1] (gō) *vi.* **went, gone, go′·ing I.** *indicating motion without reference to destination or point of departure* **1** to move along; travel; proceed [*to go* 90 miles an hour] **2** … **II.** *indicating motion from a point of departure* **1** to move off; leave; depart **2** … **III.** *indicating motion toward a place, point, etc.* **1** to move toward a place or person or in a certain direction [*to go* to the back of the room] **2** …

C. *What are some unusual uses of regular parts of speech?*

It is theoretically possible to use almost any word as whatever part of speech is required. Most such uses would be for only a single occasion and would not be entered in this dictionary. There are, however, two such common uses that are often entered:

Almost any transitive verb can be used as an intransitive verb, with the object understood (e.g., he *defined* the word; you must *define* carefully).

Nouns can be used as adjectives (e.g., a *cloth* cover; a *family* affair).

V. What are INFLECTED FORMS?

Inflection is the way some words change form so as to serve particular grammatic functions. The resulting forms are *inflected forms* or *inflections*.

This dictionary usually shows only those inflected forms that are irregular or that present specific difficulties. Regular inflected forms usually are not shown unless they are variants, in which case all variants, regular and irregular, are shown.

This dictionary enters inflected forms in boldface type just after the part-of-speech label. Most of them are truncated or shortened. They also show syllabification, stress marking, and pronunciation when necessary.

This dictionary gives three types of inflected forms: plurals of nouns, principal parts of verbs, and comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs.

A. *When are PLURALS OF NOUNS shown?*

This dictionary does not show plurals:

1) formed regularly by adding –*s* to the singular (**cats**).
2) formed regularly by adding –*es* to a singular that ends with *s, x, z,* and *sh* (**boxes** or **bushes**).
3) formed regularly by adding –*es* to a singular that ends with *ch* when *ch* is pronounced (ch) (**churches**) and by adding –*s* when *ch* is pronounced (k) (**stomachs**).

This dictionary does show plurals when:

1) a final *y* in the singular is replaced by *i* in the plural.

city *n., pl.* **cit′·ies**

2) the singular ends in *o*.

bo·lero *n., pl.* **–·ros**

veto *n., pl.* **‑‑toes**

3) the plural is irregular or presents a special problem.

tooth *n., pl.* **teeth**
son-in-law *n., pl.* **sons'‑in‑law**

4) there are variant plural forms.

amoe·ba *n., pl.* **‑‑bas** or **‑‑bae**
die[2] *n., pl.* for 1 & 2, **dice**; for 3 & 4, **dies**

This dictionary also includes as main entries plurals that are alphabetically distant from their singular forms.

lice *n. pl. of* LOUSE

B. *When does this dictionary show the PRINCIPAL PARTS OF VERBS?*

This dictionary often enters infinitives with some of their inflected forms. In English, the infinitive is usually the first-person, present-tense form of the verb (**go** as in "I go"; **run** as in "We run"). The inflected forms shown in this dictionary are called the *principal parts* of the verb: past tense, past participle, and present participle.

This dictionary <u>does</u> not show principal parts when:

1) the past tense and past participle are formed by simply adding *–ed* to the infinitive, with no other change being made. At **search**, **talk**, and **wait**, the principal parts **searched**, **talked**, and **waited** are not shown.

2) the present participle is formed by simply adding *–ing* to the infinitive, with no other change being made. At **search**, **talk**, and **wait**, the principal parts **searching**, **talking**, and **waiting** are not shown.

This dictionary <u>does</u> show principal parts when there is a change other than, or in addition to, the simple attaching of *–ed* or *–ing* to the infinitive, as when:

1) the final consonant is doubled before adding *–ed* or *–ing*.

ship *vt.* **shipped, ship'·ping**

2) the final *–e* is dropped in forming the present participle.

love *vt.* **loved, lov'·ing**

3) the final *y* is replaced by *–ie* in forming the past tense or past participle.

ready *vt.* **read'·ied, read'y·ing**

4) one or more of the parts are significantly different in form from the infinitive.

go[1] *vi.* **went, gone, go'·ing**

5) one or more of the parts have variant forms.

travel *vt.* **‑‑eled** or **‑‑elled, ‑‑el·ing** or **‑‑el·ling**

If only two principal parts are shown, as at **love**, the first is both the past tense and the past participle (**loved**) and the second is the present participle (**loving**). If three principal parts are shown, as at **go**, the first is the past tense (**went**), the second is the past participle (**gone**), and the third is the present participle (**going**).

This dictionary also enters some principal parts separately:

1) principal parts that are alphabetically distant from their infinitive forms.

gone *vi. pp. of* GO[1]

2) some verb inflections that are not shown with their infinitive forms, as present tense inflections formed by adding *–s* or *–es* to the infinitive: the precise grammatical relationship of such inflections is indicated.

goes *vi., vt.* *3d pers. sing., pres. indic., of* GO[1]

C. *When does this dictionary show COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES OF ADJECTIVES & ADVERBS?*

This dictionary <u>does</u> <u>not</u> show comparatives and superlatives formed by the simple addition of *–er* or *–est* to the base form or by the addition of *more* or *most*. For example, at **tall** the comparative form **taller** and the superlative form **tallest** are not shown.

This dictionary <u>does</u> show comparative and superlative forms when there is a change other than, or in addition to, the simple attaching of *–er* or *–est* to the base form, as when:

1) the final *–e* is dropped and *–er* and *–est* are added.

rare[1] *adj.* **rar'er, rar'·est**

2) the final *y* of the base form is replaced with *i*.

happy *adj.* **‑‑pier, ‑‑pi·est**

3) the comparative or superlative forms are significantly different from the base form.

good *adj.* **bet'·ter, best**
well[2] *adv.* **bet'·ter, best**

This dictionary also enters separately comparatives and superlatives that are alphabetically distant from the base form.

best *adj.* ... **1** *superl. of* GOOD ... *adv.* **1** *superl. of* WELL[2]

D. *What are some OTHER TYPES OF INFLECTED FORMS?*

Some inflected forms that are variants of the modern or common form may be entered, such as those that are informal, archaic, dialectal, or British.

Some variant inflected forms are shown within the entry block for the more modern or common form.

sneak *vi.* **sneaked** or ☆ [Informal] **snuck, sneak'·ing**

Other variant inflected forms, if alphabetically distant, are shown as main entries with cross-references to their more modern or common forms.

spake *vi., vt.* *archaic pt. of* SPEAK

VI. What is the ETYMOLOGY and how does it help the user?

A. *Why have an ETYMOLOGY?*

Etymologies have long been a strong feature of this dictionary. A better understanding of the current usage of a word can often come from a fuller knowledge of the word's history. A better understanding of language generally can come from knowing how words are related to other words in English and to words in other Indo-European languages.

This dictionary shows how these words are related as fully as possible and takes the etymologies back to the Indo-European base where possible, either directly or through cross-references.

B. *How are ETYMOLOGIES organized?*

Etymologies appear in entry blocks inside double brackets and before the definitions.

Special symbols are used in the etymologies:

*	an unverified form
<	derived from
>	from which source is derived
?	uncertain or unknown; perhaps

There is a list of abbreviations for the many older languages and of other language labels used in etymologies on the endpapers inside the back cover of this book.

C. *What does a typical ETYMOLOGY look like?*

The following entry for **fish** shows the form and content of a typical etymology:

fish (...) *n.* ... ⟦ME < OE *fisc*, akin to Ger *fisch*, Du *visch* < IE base **pisk‑* > L *piscis*⟧ **1** ...

The first part of this etymology has to do with the history of the word in the English language. In Middle English (ME) the word had the same form and meaning as in Modern English. This form comes from the Old English (OE) word *fisc*.

The words "akin to" that follow *fisc* introduce related words having the same meaning but coming from other Germanic languages, German (*fisch*) and Dutch (*visch*).

The next part takes the word back to the Indo-European base (*pisk-*). The asterisk (*) means that the form is hypothetical, since there is no written record of Indo-European.

The final part is a Latin word (*piscis*) meaning "fish," which is related to the English word through Indo-European.

D. *What are some other ways of showing ETYMOLOGIES?*

Some words have etymologies that are made up of the individual parts of the word shown as cross-references (in SMALL CAPITALS). Each of these parts has a separate entry, together with its own etymology, elsewhere in the dictionary.

carbo·hy·drate (…) *n.* ⟦CARBO- + HYDRATE⟧ …
☆**con·trail** (…) *n.* ⟦CON(DENSATION) + TRAIL⟧ …

Note that in the etymology for **contrail** above, parentheses set off the part of the word that was dropped in forming the entry word. It is always the whole word, however, that will be found in the dictionary.

Some words have more than one etymology. An individual part of speech or a particular sense might have its own etymology in double brackets.

dis·ease (…) *n.* ⟦ME *disese*, inconvenience, trouble, sickness < OFr *desaise*, discomfort < *des-*, dis- + *aise*, ease⟧ **1** … **2** … **3** … —*vt.* … ⟦ME *disesen* < OFr *desaaisier* < the n.⟧ to cause disease in; …
trailer (…) *n.* **1** a person, animal, or thing that trails another ☆**2** … ☆**3** … ☆**4** *Film a)* ⟦so called because originally attached to the end of a reel of film⟧ an advertisement for a feature film, typically consisting of brief portions of scenes from that film *b)* a blank length of film at the end of a reel —*vt.* …

Some etymologies are given as additional information after the definition. This method is usually used when the information gives a better understanding of the definition or connects the definition with another meaning of the word.

dog days the hot, uncomfortable days in July and August: so called because during that period the Dog Star (Sirius) rises and sets with the sun
digit (…) *n.* ⟦ME < L *digitus*, a finger, toe, inch < …⟧ **1** a finger or toe **2** … **3** any numeral from 0 to 9: so called because originally counted on the fingers

Many words lack etymologies because the parts making up the word are obvious to the user (**undoubted**) or because the definition that follows clearly explains the sources of the word (**bluebottle**).

un·doubted (…) *adj.* not doubted, called in question, or disputed; certain
blue·bottle (…) *n.* **1** any of various plants with blue, bottle-shaped flowers, …

If it is impossible to determine some part of the etymology or to make a reasonable guess or hypothesis about it, that fact is shown in this way: ⟦…<?...⟧.

box[2] (…) *n.* ⟦ME < ?⟧ a blow struck with the hand or fist, …
mel·amine (…) *n.* ⟦Ger *melamin* < *melam*, an ammonium thiocyanate distillate < *mel* < ? + *am(monium)*, ammonium + *-in*, -INE[3]⟧ a white, crystalline, cyclic compound, …
fuzz (…) *n.* ⟦< ? Du *voos*, spongy, or back-form. < fol.⟧ **1** very loose, …

VII. How does this dictionary present the DEFINITIONS?

A. *What determines the ORDER of various MEANINGS?*

In general this dictionary arranges the meanings in HISTORICAL ORDER.

chat[1] (…) *vi.* … ⟦…⟧ **1** to talk or converse in a light, easy, informal manner **2** *Comput.* to hold an electronic conversation by exchanging typed messages: … —*n.* **1** small talk; chitchat [*a letter filled with *chat* about books*] **2** an easy, informal talk or conversation **3** any of various passerine birds with a chattering call ☆**4** any of several songbirds of various families characterized by a chattering song; esp., a yellow-breasted wood warbler (*Icteria virens*) of North America …

global (…) *adj.* **1** round like a ball; globe-shaped **2** of, relating to, or including the whole earth; worldwide **3** complete or comprehensive **4** being or having to do with a business, operation, system, etc. carried on or extending throughout all or much of the world [*a *global* company, *global* communications*] **5** *Comput.* pertaining to or including an entire file, database, etc. …
server (…) *n.* **1** a person who serves, as an assistant to the celebrant at Mass, a waiter, a player who serves the ball, etc. **2** a thing used in serving, as a tray, cart, etc. **3** *Comput.* the central computer in a network (sense 3a) to which other computers or terminals are connected: shared programs, files, and databases are stored on the server

The order actually starts with the etymology. It may include meanings of a word before modern English times or in the language or languages from which the main entry word came, such as Latin and Middle French or modern Japanese.

ben·efit (…) *n.* ⟦ME *benefet* < OFr *bienfait,* a kindness < L benefactum, meritorious act < *benefacere*: see BENEFACTION⟧ **1** … **2** …

Next in order may come the original modern English meanings which are now often archaic or obsolete.

ben·efit (…) *n.* ⟦…⟧ **1** [Archaic] a kindly, charitable act; benefaction **2** …

Finally, the entry contains the most recent meanings still in use. The most common present-day meaning of a word may therefore appear near the end of an entry.

ben·efit (…) *n.* ⟦…⟧ **1** … **2** *a)* gain or advantage [*tax legislation for the *benefit* of the rich*] *b)* a favorable or beneficial circumstance, condition, or result [*several *benefits* to good nutrition*] **3** FRINGE BENEFIT **4** [*often pl.*] payments made by an insurance company, public agency, welfare society, etc. as during sickness, retirement, unemployment, etc. or for death **5** any public performance, bazaar, dance, etc. the proceeds of which are to help a certain person, group, or cause …

In longer entries it is sometimes more useful to put meanings together in related groups rather than in a strict historical order.

The order of the senses in any given entry should not always be taken as strictly chronological. The exact historical development of the different meanings of a word is often unclear. Several different meanings may have developed at the same time.

B. *How are MEANINGS NUMBERED and GROUPED together?*

Multiple definitions under a part of speech are numbered in order, using boldface numerals. Numbering starts over for each new part of speech and for each idiomatic phrase.

If a primary sense of a word requires subdivision into several closely related meanings, such meanings are indicated by italicized letters following the numbered sense.

cir·cuit (…) *n.* ⟦…⟧ **1** … **2** … **3** … **4** *a)* the regular journey of a person performing certain duties, as of an itinerant preacher or a judge holding court at designated places *b)* the district periodically traveled through in the performance of such duties *c)* the route traveled ☆**5** … **6** *a)* a number of associated theaters at which plays, movies, etc. are shown in turn *b)* a group of nightclubs, resorts, etc. at which entertainers appear in turn ☆*c)* a sequence of contests or matches held at various places, in which a particular group of athletes compete; also, an association or league of athletic teams [*the professional bowlers' *circuit*] …

The abbreviations *esp.* (especially) and *specif.* (specifically) often follow an introductory general definition and introduce one or more related particular meanings.

The use of *esp.* suggests that a particular meaning is more frequently encountered than the general meaning.

county (…) *n., pl.* **-ties** ⟦…⟧ **1** a small administrative district of a country; esp., ☆*a)* the largest local administrative subdivision of most states of the U.S. *b)* any of the chief administrative districts into which England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Ireland are divided *c)* an administrative district in certain Canadian provinces *d)* an electoral district in rural New Zealand **2** …

The use of *specif.* suggests that the particular meaning is less frequently encountered than, or as frequently encountered as, the general meaning.

tar·get (…) *n.* ⟦…⟧ **1** [Historical] a small shield, esp. a round one **2** *a*) a round, flat board, straw coil, etc., often one marked with concentric circles, set up to be aimed at, as in archery or rifle practice *b*) any object that is shot at, thrown at, etc. **3** … **4** … **5** … **6** … **7** something resembling a target in shape or use; specif., ☆*a*) the sliding sight on a surveyor's leveling rod ☆*b*) a disk-shaped signal on a railroad switch *c*) a metallic insert, usually of tungsten or molybdenum, in the anode of an X-ray tube, upon which the stream of cathode rays impinges and from which X-rays emanate *d*) a surface, object, etc. subjected to irradiation or to bombardment as by nuclear particles —*vt.* …

If a basic word has a large number of meanings that can conveniently be grouped together under a few major headings, this has been done. The sections, indicated by Roman numerals, are then further subdivided into individual numbered meanings.

time (…) *n.* ⟦…⟧ **I.** *duration; continuance* **1** … **2** … **3** … **II.** *a period or interval* **1** … **2** … **3** … **4** … **III.** *a point in duration; moment; instant; occasion* **1** … **2** … **3** …

C. *When are words CAPITALIZED?*

If a main-entry word is capitalized in all its meanings, the entry word itself is printed with a capital letter.

Ameri·ca (…) ⟦…⟧ **1** North America, South America, and the West Indies, considered together: also **the Americas 2** North America ☆**3** the United States of America

If a capitalized main-entry word has a meaning or meanings that are uncapitalized, they are marked with the corresponding small-boldface, lowercase letter followed by a short dash and enclosed in brackets.

Sat·suma (…) *n.* ⟦…⟧ **1** a variety of Japanese pottery ☆**2** [s-] a small, loose-skinned variety of orange, grown in Florida and Alabama

If a lowercase main-entry word has a meaning or meanings that are capitalized, they are marked with the corresponding small-boldface, uppercase letter followed by a short dash and enclosed in brackets.

fed·eral (…) *adj.* ⟦…⟧ **1** of or formed by a compact; specif., designating or of a union of states, groups, etc. in which each member agrees to subordinate its governmental power to that of the central authority in certain specified common affairs **2** … ☆**3** [F-] of or supporting the Federalist Party or its principle of strong centralized government ☆**4** [F-] of or pertaining to the style in architecture and furniture based on classical Roman models that flourished in the U.S. from 1780 into the 1830s ☆**5** … —*n.* **1** [F-] a Federalist ☆**2** …

In usage notes regarding capitalization, a self-explanatory qualifying term such as "usually," "often," "sometimes," "also," or "occas." in italics may be added.

Eng·lish (…) *adj.* ⟦…⟧ … —*n.* **1** … **2** the English language of a specific period or place: see American English, British English, Canadian English, Old English, Middle English, Modern English **3** … **4** … **5** … ☆**6** [*sometimes* e-] *Billiards, Bowling, etc.* a spinning motion given to a ball, as by striking it on one side **7** … —*vt.* **1** to translate into English **2** … ☆**3** [*sometimes* e-] *Billiards, Bowling, etc.* to give English to (a ball) …

D. *What are some of the ways to show the PLURAL form of a noun?*

In a singular noun entry, the designation "[*pl.*]" (or "[*often pl.*]," "[*usually pl.*]," etc.) before a definition indicates that it is (or *often, usually,* etc. is) the plural form of the entry word that has the meaning given in the definition.

rush[1] (…) *vi.* ⟦…⟧ … *n.* … **9** [*usually pl.*] *Film* a first print made shortly after the filming of a scene or scenes, for inspection by the director, etc. …

day (…) *n.* ⟦…⟧ … **4** [*also pl.*] a period or time; era; age [the best writer of her *day*, in *days* of old]

If such a plural meaning is used as a singular with a singular verb, the additional note "*with sing. v.*" is added inside the brackets.

bone (…) *n.* ⟦…⟧ … **7** *a*) [*pl.*] flat sticks used as clappers in minstrel shows *b*) [*pl., with sing. v.*] an end man in a minstrel show **8** bone white …

The note "*usually used in pl.*" at the end of a singular noun definition indicates that although the entry word is sometimes used in the singular with the meaning shown in the definition, it is usually used in the plural with that meaning pluralized.

ex·trem·ity (…) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties** ⟦…⟧ … **5** an extreme measure; severe or strong action: *usually used in pl.* …

hand·cuff (…) *n.* either of a pair of connected metal rings that can be locked about the wrists, as in restraining a prisoner or fastening him to a policeman: *usually used in pl.* …

If a noun has one or more meanings that apply only to the plural form, the plural form becomes a main entry with the label "*pl.n.*"

goods (…) *pl.n.* **1** movable personal property **2** merchandise; wares **3** fabric; cloth …

If a noun has a plural form but the meanings are singular, then a "*n.*" label is used.

pho·net·ics (…) *n.* ⟦…⟧ **1** the study of speech sounds, their production and combination, and their representation by written symbols **2** the description and analysis of the sounds of a particular language [the *phonetics* of English]

If a noun has some meanings that take a plural verb and others that take a singular verb, then both a "*pl.n.*" and a "*n.*" label are used in the same entry.

phys·ics (…) *n.* ⟦…⟧ … **2** *a*) the science dealing with the properties, changes, interactions, etc. of matter and energy in which energy is considered to be continuous … *b*) a specific system of physics **3** a book or treatise on any of these —*pl.n.* physical properties or processes [the *physics* of flight]

E. *How does this dictionary indicate that certain PREPOSITIONS accompany certain VERBS?*

In many instances a specific preposition or prepositions follow a particular verb in general use. This dictionary indicates such a condition either by including the preposition in the definition, italicized and usually enclosed in parentheses, or by adding a note after the definition, pointing out the particular prepositions associated with that definition of the verb.

glance[1] (…) *vi.* … ⟦…⟧ **1** to strike a surface obliquely and go off at an angle: usually with *off* **2** to make an indirect or passing reference: with *over, at*, etc. …

leap·frog (…) *n.* —*vi.* … **1** to jump in or as if in leapfrog; skip (*over*) **2** …

top·ple (…) *vi.* ⟦…⟧ **1** to fall (*over*) because or as if top-heavy **2** …

This dictionary enters verbal phrases consisting of a VERB and an ADVERB as IDIOMATIC PHRASES under the key verb.

make[1] (…) *vt.* … ⟦…⟧ … —**make out 1** to see or hear with some difficulty but clearly enough to understand **2** to understand **3** to write out **4** to fill out (as a blank form) … —**make over 1** to change; renovate **2** to transfer the ownership of by or as by signing a legal document …

F. *How does this dictionary show OBJECTS of TRANSITIVE VERBS?*

In definitions of transitive verbs the specific or generalized objects of the verb, if they are shown, are enclosed in parentheses, since such objects are not part of the definition. A typical object also can be shown in an example.

lace (…) *n.* ⟦…⟧ … —*vt.* … ⟦…⟧ … **1** to draw the ends of (a garment, shoe, etc.) together and fasten with a lace **2** …

mix (…) *vt.* ⟦…⟧ **1** … **2** to make by putting ingredients together [to *mix* a cake] **3** …

If a definition is both TRANSITIVE and INTRANSITIVE, the object of the transitive verb may be shown in parentheses. To